

CONFIDENTIALOCI No. 5796/55
Copy No.CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
14 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Additional Indications of a Second Afro-Asian Conference

Several reports received in the past two days appear to strengthen the possibility that a second Afro-Asian conference will be held before the end of next year, with Cairo the place of meeting.

According to a 7 October broadcast from the Arab section of Jerusalem, the Syrian government had received a note from the secretariat of the Afro-Asian states (at Djakarta) soliciting Damascus' views regarding the date and place of the "coming conference." Radio Cairo, on 12 October, quoted the Egyptian Minister of Waqfs as saying that most of the Afro-Asian countries have expressed a desire to hold "their forthcoming conference" in Cairo. The next day, AFP in Paris reported that the Egyptian cabinet had agreed to the convocation of a second Afro-Asian conference in Cairo in November 1956. In addition, there have been references in the government-controlled Egyptian press concerning the desirability of such a meeting.

There is, however, still no indication that the Colombo Powers, responsible under the Bandung resolutions for arranging subsequent meetings, have initiated any steps for another conference. In fact, a report from Ceylon appearing in the London Times of 19 September stated that Premier Kotelawala had suggested a meeting of the Colombo Powers to discuss matters of interest to Asian and African countries as an alternative to a second full-scale conference, as had been suggested by Egyptian premier Nasr.

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HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

Coord: IP, AR

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| Auth. | HR 7-2 |
| Date | 25 Sept 78 |
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